



Photos by Patrick Buffett

Sgt. 1st Class Tony Towns, representing Fort Knox, Ky., sets up a Claymore mine during Tuesday’s lanes-training portion of the 2006 U.S. Army Drill Sergeant of the Year competition. Conducted at Fort Eustis, the lanes-training event included other “warrior tasks” like land navigation, hand-to-hand combatives, reacting to improvised explosive devices, combat first aid and more. The week-long DSOY competition itself was hosted by TRADOC at Fort Monroe. It drew 18 active duty and reserve drill sergeants from across the nation. The event culminates today with an award ceremony where one candidate from each component will be named Drill Sergeant of the Year.



Sgt. 1st Class Edward Hurley, representing Fort Sill, Okla, demonstrates his ability to teach marching movements during the “hands-on” module phase of the competition Monday at the Fort Monroe Fitness Center.

2006 U.S. Army Drill Sergeant of the Year



Sgt. 1st Class Daryle Walker, representing Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., negotiates one of 17 stations at the Fort Eustis obstacle course during lanes-training on Tuesday.



Sgt. 1st Class Sherrie A. Saunders, representing Redstone Arsenal, Ala., knocks out pushups under the watchful eye of evaluator Sgt. 1st Class Mark Mounce during the Drill Sergeant of the Year fitness test Monday at Continental Park.



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Photo left: Sgt. 1st Class Edward Hurley scans for danger as his team approaches a building from which they must rescue an American hostage. Photo above, Staff Sgt. John Diggles, left, and Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Scott ready themselves for a hostage rescue situation.



Photo left, Staff Sgt. John Thomas, front, and Sgt. 1st Class Eric Fernandez watch for any signs of hostility from "villagers" at a mock village at Fort Eustis. The DSOY competition included several scenarios in which the candidates had to demonstrate their knowledge of room clearing procedures. Photo above, Sgt. 1st Class Oseanto Oliver leads a patrol to the next event during DSOY lanes training Tuesday.



Sgt. 1st Class Daryle Walker, left, and Staff Sgt. Shannon Rupp negotiate an obstacle at the Fort Eustis confidence course.



Photo left, Sgt. 1st Class Kris Toman negotiates a rope swing obstacle during DSOY lanes training Tuesday at Eustis. Photo above, Sgt. 1st Class William Downey talks Soldiers through the "power jump" exercise during Monday's DSOY modules training.



Photo by Charlie Alston, Fort Eustis

Sgt. 1st Class Reynolds Jolly, far left, and Sgt. 1st Class Spencer Swearingen, far right, the 2005 U.S. Army Drill Sergeants of the Year for the active duty and reserve components, respectively, pose with participants of the 2006 Army DSOY competition. Individuals pictured and the bases/organizations they represent are as follows: (back row, left to right) Sgt. 1st Class Sylvia Thomas, Fort Lee, Va.; Sgt. 1st Class Steven Howd, 100th Training Division (USAR); Sgt. 1st Class Oseanto Oliver, Fort Eustis, Va.; Sgt. 1st Class William Downey, 80th Division (USAR); Sgt. 1st Class Kris Toman, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; Staff Sgt. John Thomas, Fort Rucker, Ala.; Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Sands, Fort Gordon, Ga.; Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Scott, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.; Staff Sgt. Jennifer Erhart, 98th Division (USAR); Sgt. 1st Class Sherrie Saunders, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; (front row, left to right) Sgt. 1st Class Eric Fernandez, Fort Bliss, Texas; Staff Sgt. John Diggles, Fort Benning, Ga.; Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Weir, 108th Division (USAR); Sgt. 1st Class Daryle Walker, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Staff Sgt. Shannon Rupp, 95th Division (USAR); Sgt. 1st Class Tony Towns, Fort Knox, Ky.; Sgt. 1st Class Edward Hurley, Fort Sill, Okla.; and Sgt. 1st Class Michael E. Behnkendorf, Fort Jackson, S.C.



Photo above, participants of the 2006 U.S. Army Drill Sergeant of the Year competition begin the APFT two-mile run on Monday. Photo right, Sgt. 1st Class Sherrie Saunders, representing Red Stone Arsenal, Ala., writes an essay as part of the competition. Candidates are evaluated on their ability to communicate effectively as well as their ability to perform warrior tasks and train Soldiers. Photo far right, Sgt. 1st Class Timothy D. Weir, representing the 108th Division (USAR), exits a structure at the urban training site at Fort Eustis. On Friday, he will be one of five reservists who could be named Drill Sergeant of the Year. One active duty NCO will also be chosen. Those individuals will be assigned to TRADOC Headquarters in the near future.



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After three days of intense competition, the Drill Sergeant of the Year competitors share their warrior spirit with the Fort Monroe community during a Thursday morning run. The training session was led by Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Sparks, TRADOC CSM, front. Later in the day, the candidates each appeared before a DSOY board comprised of command sergeants major from various installations and activities around TRADOC.